

**Illinois Early Learning Council
Executive Committee Meeting
December 7th, 2015, 1pm to 4pm**

Chicago: ISBE Video-conference Room (100 W. Randolph St., 14th Floor)

Springfield: ISBE Video-conference Room (100 N. 1st St.)

Call: 1-888-494-4032 Access code: 6113045703

Minutes

Chicago: Jeanna Capito, George Davis, Gaylord Gieseke, Phyllis Glink, Dan Harris, Reyna Hernandez, Teresa Kelly, Beth Purvis, Diana Rauner, Elliot Regenstein, Sara Slaughter, Teri Talan, Kathy Villano, Kelley Washington, Maria Whelan

Springfield: Cindy Zumwalt

Phone: Kay Willmoth

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Council co-chairs Phyllis Glink and Beth Purvis welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with the approval of the previous Executive Council's minutes. The minutes were moved by Diana Rauner and Maria Whelan.

II. Council Structure Update

Council co-chair Purvis began the meeting by introducing Kelley Washington, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development's new director. Purvis then went on to talk about the need for the Early Learning Council to be strategically placed, especially in the P-20 council. Council co-chair Glink also stated that consultant Elizabeth Cole will be reaching out individually to members of the council. Glink asked for Council members to be open and honest with Cole and Purvis thanked the work of the Ounce of Prevention.

Committee member Reyna Hernandez then gave an update on Kindergarten readiness and the KIDS assessment. Hernandez and others met with the State Superintendent, Tony Smith, to talk about the feedback he had been receiving from the field. Smith had shared that he had received feedback saying that the amount of times he has been told the assessment is good but not doable unless the number of measures are reduced so that teachers spend no more than 20 minutes per student. Members of the council agreed that the assessment is important but it still hasn't been implemented long enough or in enough places to warrant an immediate change.

III. Review of Recommendation to Endorse CCDBG State Plan

The council then shifted to talking about the CCDBG state plan. Every state has been charged by the federal government to develop an early childhood block grant. The Illinois Early Learning

Council Executive Committee was allowed by the Full Council to make a decision on this. No decisions would be made at this Executive meeting, however. Topics that were brought up were training, professional development, and monitoring especially for license exempt centers; recommendations for CPR first aid including small grants and background checks; implementation of a Childcare Emergency Preparedness Task Force; making sure that homeless children get priorities in the system; and expulsion and suspension of preschoolers. Talks about the recommendation to endorse CCDB state plan at the next Exec Committee meeting on Feb. 1st, 2016.

IV. Status Report on Race to the Top Funding

Deputy Director of the Office of Early Childhood Development Kathy Stohr has taken over more Race to the Top initiatives including creating sustainability for funding. She is looking at areas that will require more resources and how Early Childhood in the state is using existing resources differently which will include, over the next few weeks, mapping out a process of what that looks like. Stohr also mentioned that she and some members of her team will be going to the Early Childhood Inter-Agency team meeting in January.

V. Inter-Agency Team (IAT) System of Supports for Community Collaboration Plan

Jeanna Capito and Joanne Su explained the goal of the IAT is to create the effectiveness of community collaboration that will create the capacity of the stakeholders and engages with families so that things are family centered and the responsiveness of the state is increased.

Members of the committee recommend using an existing team to create an intentional strategy and that will make sure it's not a "one-size" fits all type of strategy. Su and Capito also asked if they could utilize part of the BUILD grant but the Exec committee was unsure if they had authority to approve this and asked Capito and Su to put a hold on this.

VI. Data, Research, and Evaluation Committee Presentation

Committee members Elliot Regenstein and Teri Talan presented the DRE Research Agenda draft, a living document, to be posted on the Early Learning Council website. Regenstein and Talan said this would be a process step and would solicit feedback to look at things more broadly. The Exec committee approved the Research Agenda and it was posted on the Early Learning Council.

VII. Committee Updates

There were no committee updates to report.

VIII. Adjourn